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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

Optimizing the international effort to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/9 on the strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. In that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it a report containing a comprehensive assessment of its implementation.

The report presents a midterm review of the United Nations action plan for Chernobyl recovery up to 2016 and records the activities undertaken by the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations to promote recovery from the Chernobyl disaster. It emphasizes the importance of the ongoing inter-agency cooperation, including in the framework of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network, and outlines the role of the United Nations Development Programme in coordinating inter-agency efforts on the implementation of the Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions (2006-2016). The report concludes that the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system are committed to fostering long-term development of the affected regions and emphasizes the continuing need for community development efforts and the provision of accurate information to the affected populations. The annexes to the report provide an update on the efforts of the three most affected countries, Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, to facilitate recovery of the affected regions.

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I. General situation

1. Since 2006, United Nations agencies have been engaged in the Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions (2006-2016). In implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/9, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) prepared a United Nations action plan on Chernobyl to 2016 as a practical framework for cooperation during the Decade. The draft action plan was approved by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl, in November 2008 at the planning and coordination workshop for the third decade of cooperation on Chernobyl recovery efforts.

2. The action plan defines a common vision and priority actions for United Nations agencies aimed at overcoming the negative legacy of Chernobyl. It builds on agency mandates and competencies as well as on strong partnership and cooperation with Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The present report presents a midterm review of the action plan on Chernobyl to 2016.

3. Governments of the three most affected countries have put significant efforts into overcoming the legacy of Chernobyl (see the reports of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, annexes I, II and III of the present report). Significant progress has been achieved by the United Nations organizations and bodies. Drawing on the reassuring findings of Chernobyl Forum, the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network project, initiated in April 2009, has been working on providing information to local populations in accessible, non-technical language. Community-level development efforts in Chernobyl-affected areas show promising improvements in the quality of life of the local citizens. At the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, progress is reported on the construction of the new safe confinement (or new shelter) and the development of infrastructure for the safe long-term management of radioactive wastes.

4. It is also recognized that the social and economic consequences of the Chernobyl accident continue to negatively influence the affected area, and that communities still require support. Young people leave the region, investment is scarce and fear of radiation makes local produce difficult to market. The United Nations strategy is to continue providing support to Governments in the affected region in order to ensure that by 2016 the area manages to overcome the Chernobyl stigma, that communities take an active role in local development and start to take control of their lives and that normalcy returns to the Chernobyl-affected territories.

II. Coordination of the work of the United Nations on Chernobyl

5. Since 2004, UNDP has been coordinating efforts in Chernobyl across the United Nations system. The Administrator of UNDP serves as the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl. The Office of United Nations Coordination of International Cooperation on Chernobyl functions as part of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, managing day-to-day coordination responsibilities.

6. In order to share information and ensure better coordination, on 26 April 2008 and 19 November 2009, UNDP organized meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force.

The Associate Administrator of UNDP chaired the meeting in 2008, and the Administrator of UNDP chaired it in 2009. Both meetings involved widest possible participation, with more than 70 participants in 10 different locations. Two United Nations agencies, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Volunteers were represented at the meeting of the Task Force for the first time. Such broad engagement underlined both the lasting impact of Chernobyl and the commitment of the United Nations and other organizations to help cope with the legacy of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

7. In November 2008, the first planning and coordination workshop for the third decade of cooperation in Chernobyl recovery efforts took place at the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna. The workshop attracted high-level participation at the Deputy Minister level from the three Chernobyl-affected countries, as well as that of United Nations Resident Coordinators and representatives of United Nations agencies involved in Chernobyl-related work. The participants agreed on joint approaches to implement the United Nations action plan on Chernobyl to 2016 and the programme of the third decade. The discussions underscored a continued need for international assistance in coping with the problems of the Chernobyl-affected region, but also pointed to the enthusiasm, both within and outside the United Nations, to find forward-looking solutions to help local communities and national Governments overcome the problems.

8. On 21 November 2008 the meeting of the Quadripartite Coordination Committee, a body that brings together the United Nations Coordinator and the ministries responsible for Chernobyl-related activities in the three most affected countries, took place in Vienna. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine as well as the United Nations Resident Coordinators in the three countries and the Office of United Nations Coordination of International Cooperation on Chernobyl. Participants shared views on what is expected from the United Nations system in Chernobyl recovery efforts, and which coordination mechanisms proved most effective.

III. Ongoing United Nations assistance efforts

9. In implementation of the United Nations action plan on Chernobyl to 2016 United Nations country teams have been pursuing a developmental approach to Chernobyl programmes in each of the three most affected countries. Activities fall into nine main categories: (a) the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network; (b) community-based development; (c) policy advice; (d) infrastructure; (e) health; (f) radiation mitigation and standard setting; (g) reactor safety and nuclear waste management; (h) emergency preparedness; and (i) environmental security.

A. International Chernobyl Research and Information Network

10. The programme of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network is designed for the dissemination of the findings of the Chernobyl Forum on the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, including practical advice on healthy and productive lifestyles to the residents of Chernobyl-affected areas in

Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. This three-year initiative, with a budget of $2.5 million, is supported by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and implemented by IAEA, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Dissemination of the latest scientific knowledge on the effects of the accident on health and the environment will help dispel misconceptions and empower the communities to maximize social and economic recovery of the region. The programme was officially launched on 24 April 2009 at UNDP headquarters in New York.

11. In 2009 and 2010, the Network's implementing agencies produced numerous informational materials for a variety of local stakeholders. The Scientific Board of the Network was created as a consultative body to review information packages and ensure that they are factually accurate and up to date. Training activities were initiated for local stakeholder groups, namely teachers, medical professionals, community leaders and media representatives.

12. IAEA is collecting and disseminating information and experiences on Chernobyl-related topics. At the regional workshop in Moscow in February 2009, the issue of information dissemination using Internet technology was discussed. A workshop in Ukraine in June 2009 focused on information needs of Chernobyl-affected populations and knowledge-sharing between public information specialists. IAEA has reviewed materials on radiation protection and radiation safety and is preparing Web-based Internet resources on the subject. IAEA has also published a report providing information to the public on the territories affected by the Chernobyl accident, as well as the report of the Chernobyl Forum, *Environmental Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident and their Remediation: Twenty Years of Experience*, in Russian.

13. Information provision on existing health risks for Chernobyl-affected communities is a priority activity of WHO. This includes the review of available information, the development of "Radiation and health" training materials and information dissemination through educational and training activities. In 2009-2010, WHO organized four workshops for health workers from the affected communities in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The knowledge and skills learned at the workshops will help health workers to inform affected populations about the risks of radiation, placing it in the context of other health risks related to the environment and human behaviour. Future WHO activities will include the promotion of healthy lifestyles and an assessment of the risk profile for the populations in Chernobyl-affected regions. Based on results of the risk profiling study, a tailored information package will be developed and delivered to health and education workers and decision makers at the community level.

14. UNDP has developed an information package on the socio-economic impact of Chernobyl, current challenges faced by communities, the area's opportunities and solutions that work on the ground. During 2009, three information and communications technology (ICT) access points were established in rural areas of Ukraine and one in the Russian Federation. UNDP has partnered with the Masters of Public Affairs programme at Science Po/Paris Institute of Political Studies on the development of a human security monitoring system focusing on psychological and behavioural aspects of populations in Chernobyl-affected communities. Subregionally, UNDP took the lead in organizing two training sessions for media representatives and journalists that took place in Ukraine in 2009 and in the Russian

Federation in 2010. Participating journalists from Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine were trained by leading experts from IAEA, UNDP, UNICEF and WHO. Implementation of small-scale community-based initiatives and training on healthy lifestyles started in 2010.

B. Community-based development

15. In Belarus, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA have started implementation of a three-year initiative aimed at enhancing human security in the Chernobyl-affected communities of the Slavgorod, Chechersk, Bragin, Stolin and Luninets districts. Supported by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, the project aims at increasing the incomes of farm holders by adopting agricultural innovations and ensuring that the radiation levels in their produce comply with radiation safety standards. Health issues are being addressed by promotion of healthy lifestyles among pregnant women, new mothers and their families. In addition, there is a focus on early diagnosis of breast cancer and improving the expertise of local health workers with regard to healthy maternity, paternity and childhood.

16. In Ukraine, UNDP is applying an area-based development approach to support community-based initiatives aimed at the improvement of local infrastructure, water and gas supply and access to ICT. The approach was piloted in the Chernobyl-affected regions and subsequently expanded nation-wide as a joint European Union/ UNDP programme. The approach is now being used in 43 Chernobyl-affected villages in several districts. In 2008, the UNDP office in Ukraine and the United Nations Volunteers initiated a three-year project on the social inclusion of youth and civic engagement in Ukraine in the rural areas of Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Chernihiv and Rivne oblasts. The over 300 youth who have volunteered for project activities in 20 rural youth centres have completed over 35 community-based projects.

17. The UNDP office in Ukraine has conducted annual meetings of the Chernobyl Economic Development Forum. The meetings have provided a useful platform for business, local authorities and communities to discuss joint strategies to revitalize the local economy. UNDP also facilitated innovative partnerships between local authorities of the affected regions and their equivalent counterparts in States members of the European Union. In 2009, 19 partnership agreements were signed by regional governments in Poland and Ukraine. In addition, in Ukraine, the UNDP Chernobyl Recovery and Development Programme cooperated with the Oxford University Ukrainian Society and the National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" on a training programme for volunteers. Each year around 10 students from Oxford University participate in community-based activities.

18. The UNDP office in Belarus piloted the above-mentioned area-based development approach in the Chernobyl-affected districts of Vetka, Buda-Kosheliovo, Zhitkovichi and Khoiniki, focusing on building the developmental capacity of local communities and empowering the population to participate in the social and economic recovery of their settlements. The project will support mutually beneficial cooperation between the rural communities and local authorities, aimed at resolving the priority needs of Chernobyl-affected areas. Over 30 community-driven projects will be implemented in rural localities.

19. The UNICEF office in Ukraine is working on establishing family centres with recreational facilities in the affected communities of Rivne oblast and has

implemented "Child Friendly Cities" initiatives in both Belarus and Ukraine as well as community-based projects for the rehabilitation and education of disabled children in the Gomel oblast of Belarus.

C. Policy advice

20. The UNDP office in Ukraine provides ongoing advisory support to the Government and is assisting in formulating forward-looking developmental strategies. Preparation of a comprehensive legal framework for revisiting the zoning status of affected territories in Ukraine remains one of the priority tasks. The alignment of zoning boundaries with current radiation levels will help lift the restrictions on economic and other activities where they would otherwise be possible and will encourage new investment.

D. Subregional cooperation

21. The UNDP Office of United Nations Coordination of International Cooperation on Chernobyl has worked to strengthen subregional cooperation, particularly among UNDP teams working in affected areas in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The Office has continued to build synergies in three priority areas: information; policy advice; and community development. Subregional annual conferences of UNDP teams working on the issue were held in January 2008 in Moscow; in March 2009 in Minsk, and in February 2010 in Kyiv.

22. Replication of best practices between the areas that face developmental challenges similar to those of the Chernobyl-affected regions remains a priority of subregional cooperation. Territories around the former nuclear site of Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan face problems similar to those of the Chernobyl-affected areas, which are related to poverty, poor living standards, lack of social services and opportunities for income generation, especially in rural settlements, as well as fears of radiation. The UNDP Chernobyl team undertook two knowledge sharing missions to the UNDP Semipalatinsk programme in Kazakhstan in November 2008 and June 2009.

E. Infrastructure

23. In 2006 the World Bank initiated a $50 million post-Chernobyl recovery project in Belarus that aims to provide the population residing in the Chernobyl-affected areas with energy efficient and reliable heat and hot water services. The project's energy efficiency component includes the upgrading or replacement of heat production and distribution equipment and improvement of thermal insulation and lighting in public buildings. The residential gas connections component provides household connections to the existing gas distribution network for improving heat supply and curtailing the use of dirty fuels, including those that may be contaminated with radioactive material. About 3,000 individual houses will be connected to natural gas. At request of the Government of Belarus, the World Bank has prepared an additional loan of $30 million to fund further energy efficiency and residential gas connections activities in the affected rayons.

24. The World Bank's Water Supply and Sanitation Project, a $60 million initiative approved in September 2008, aims to increase the efficiency, quality and sustainability of water supply and sanitation services to 1.7 million people living in 20 districts of Belarus, including Chernobyl-affected areas.

F. Health

25. The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation is the body specifically mandated by the General Assembly to assess scientifically levels and effects of exposure to sources of ionizing radiation. In collaboration with scientists from Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the Committee has updated its landmark 2000 evaluation[1] on health effects due to irradiation from the accident with information that had since been scientifically verified. The Committee reported its findings[2] to the Assembly in 2008, and the United Nations will be issuing supporting scientific annexes as a sales publication.

26. Although much new research data has become available, the major conclusions regarding the scale and nature of the effects of radiation on health were consistent with the Committee's reports of 1988[3] and 2000. Essentially, persons exposed as children to radioiodine from the accident and the highly irradiated emergency and recovery operation workers are at increased risk of radiation-induced effects. Most area residents, who were irradiated at levels comparable to or a few times higher than the yearly dose of natural background radiation levels, need not live in fear of serious health consequences.

27. Model-based predictions have been published about possible increases in solid cancer incidence among the general population, but uninformed reporting of these predictions had created confusion among the public. The Committee decided not to use models to project absolute numbers on the effects of radiation on populations exposed to the low doses because of unacceptable uncertainties in the predictions.

28. The Committee observed that it was often difficult for the public and the media to appreciate that radiation risks, while serious for some exposed groups, were, for the general population, not as significant from a health point of view as they were often represented to be. With the exception of the early deaths among emergency workers, which were clinically attributable to acute radiation syndrome, and the small proportion of thyroid cancers that were fatal, the Committee found that it was not possible to attribute any specific deaths to irradiation from the accident.

29. As part of its ongoing work, the Committee will continue to evaluate relevant information to provide a scientific basis for better understanding of the effects of radiation on health. Since 1986, WHO has been involved in assessment and mitigation of the impact of the Chernobyl accident on health through a number of projects. These include the international project on the health effects of the Chernobyl accident, completed in 1996, the study of thyroid cancer among children affected by the Chernobyl accident, the telemedicine project and the tissue bank

[1] See A/55/46.
[2] See A/63/46.
[3] See A/43/45.

project. WHO played a key role in the work of the Chernobyl Forum, which produced a benchmark report on the health effects of the Chernobyl accident.[4]

30. The WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer is coordinating the European Commission-funded project "Agenda for Research on Chernobyl Health", which includes the establishment of a multidisciplinary group of experts who will identify and prioritize the potential studies, assess their feasibility, cost-effectiveness and likelihood of success and provide a reasoned and comprehensive strategic research agenda for future health-related research. A mechanism for long-term funding, similar to the action taken some years after the first atomic bomb exposures, is being suggested. The project seeks the active participation and inputs from the research community, stakeholders and members of the public during the preparation of the strategic research agenda, which will be presented by the end of 2010.

31. In March 2008, UNICEF launched a special edition of its publication *Facts for Life* on Chernobyl, and distributing 35,000 copies in Chernobyl-affected communities in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The edition was co-published by UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In 2009, 13 posters with essential information from chapters of the *Facts for Life* special edition on Belarus were printed and disseminated. The posters offer information on radiation safety, family planning, safe motherhood, early child development and nutrition, assistance to disabled children and to mothers in the prenatal period, prevention of child trauma and HIV infection.

32. In 2008-2009, UNICEF conducted a survey of knowledge about childcare and development among families in the Chernobyl-affected areas of the three countries and cleared up numerous Chernobyl-related misconceptions.

33. UNICEF is supporting the public information campaign on good parenting and education for young people in Chernobyl-affected regions. In the Brest oblast in Belarus, through a four-year project on life skills and healthy lifestyle educational programmes and manuals have been developed. Eleven newly created information resource centres in the Luninets district provide Chernobyl-related materials as well as materials on healthy lifestyles.

34. In Belarus, UNICEF is supporting improvement of childcare and youth-friendly services and development of the capacity of medical professionals in the area of newborn intensive care. Under the European Commission-funded project "Children of Chernobyl", medical equipment will be delivered to 15 central hospitals in a number of districts and oblasts. Five youth-friendly health centres have been opened, improving access to medical and counselling services. More than 100 social, medical workers and teachers from six Chernobyl-affected areas received training in "working with families to prevent child abandonment".

35. In Ukraine, UNICEF is working on the improvement of health-care services for mothers and children in Chernobyl-affected areas. More than 300 health-care workers have been trained in effective prenatal, neonatal and paediatric care and infection control. Fifteen regional hospitals have been certified as "baby and family friendly", and lifesaving equipment for infants has been provided to 10 regional hospitals. Also in Ukraine, UNICEF is supporting the establishment of family

[4] http://www.who.int/ionizing_radiation/chernobyl/en/.

centres that deliver comprehensive basic services for vulnerable families and families with children that have special needs. A school for fathers has been organized as part of the family centres in order to bring about the broader involvement of fathers in the care and upbringing of children. A youth-friendly clinic, established in the city of Chernihiv, now serves around 1,000 adolescents per year. By the end of 2010, five new clinics will be providing health-care services for youth from the Chernobyl-affected regions of Ukraine.

36. Since 2006, UNICEF has made the introduction of universal salt iodization one of the key elements in its advocacy efforts. In October 2007, the Parliament of Belarus adopted an iodine deficiency disorders/universal salt iodization amendment to its law on food safety, and national legislation was revised to comply with the provisions of the law; as a result, national monitoring of the quality of iodized salt and its availability in the retail trade is now in place. UNICEF efforts contributed to wider recognition that iodine deficiency has an impact on child development. Local iodine deficiency prevention programmes have been adopted in the Rivne and Vinnitsa oblasts of Ukraine and a programme is under preparation in the Chernihiv oblast.

37. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, together with its member national societies in the three countries, continues to implement the Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme, ensuring detection of thyroid gland cancer and other thyroid pathologies and addressing basic health needs of the affected population. Starting in 2010, the activities related to the programme will be gradually integrated into national health-care systems in order to ensure long-term sustainability.

38. Six mobile diagnostic laboratories working in remote areas of the Brest, Gomel and Mogilev oblasts of Belarus, the Rivne and Zhytomyr oblasts of Ukraine and the Bryansk oblast of the Russian Federation provide the services of the Chernobyl Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme. The laboratories screen about 90,000 persons annually. Screenings in 2009 detected 40,890 thyroid pathologies and referred 12,873 patients to specialized medical institutions for in-depth examinations. Some 178 cases of thyroid cancer were confirmed in 2009. To address the stress and anxiety of the affected population, the programme focuses on psychosocial support. These efforts contribute to healthier lifestyles, combating, inter alia, alcohol and drug abuse. In 2009, breast screening and HIV prevention activities were also introduced under the programme.

39. In Belarus, UNDP implemented a USAID-funded "family health" project with focus on the radio-ecological education of health-care professionals, pregnant women and nursing mothers, future fathers, secondary school teachers and schoolchildren in Chernobyl-affected regions. An information and advisory centre, "Dialogue", was established, offering health-related consultations. The project developed guidelines, training materials and a film on healthy lifestyles, healthy pregnancy, delivery and childcare. Implemented activities improved the knowledge and skills of health-care workers and teachers and enhanced the awareness of youth about healthy lifestyles.

40. Since 2009, UNDP has been working in Belarus on the establishment of an international scientific and practical centre for thyroid disease within the framework of the initiative funded by the European Commission. The centre will: (a) provide medical care services to the most vulnerable categories of the Chernobyl-affected

population; (b) ensure continuous monitoring of the currently observed patients and the risk groups; (c) develop a scientific platform to exchange knowledge and expertise between national and international experts; and (d) provide educational seminars and develop materials about the impact of radiation as well as preventive measures against thyroid cancer.

G. Radiation mitigation and standard setting

41. Mitigation of consequences of Chernobyl has been one of the priority areas for the IAEA technical cooperation programme in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Various practical solutions for mitigating some of the effects of Chernobyl fallout in affected zones have been proposed.

42. IAEA continues to provide support to Belarus in remediation of the affected areas and, through its regional initiative, offers radiological support for the rehabilitation of Chernobyl-affected areas in the three countries. In particular, training was provided to national specialists on the use of IAEA software to optimize remediation strategies. The software can be used for the development of national approaches to remediation strategies, optimized and harmonized with international safety standards and good practices. It also allows for better comparison of strategies between the affected countries. Several regional workshops have been organized on new technical developments in the rehabilitation of areas contaminated by inorganic pollutants.

H. Reactor safety and nuclear waste management

43. The Chernobyl accident spurred large-scale cooperation to support Ukraine in building a new shelter around the damaged reactor. The Chernobyl Shelter Fund, managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, was established in 1997 to carry out the shelter implementation plan to transform Chernobyl unit 4, destroyed in the accident, into a stable and environmentally safe condition. Twenty-nine countries, led by member States of the Group of Eight, the European Union and Ukraine, have pledged more than 900 million euros (€) to implement the programme. Amid the global economic and financial crisis, the "materializing" of the pledged contributions has become an important priority.

44. The shelter implementation plan has entered its final phase. Major infrastructure, preparatory and engineering projects have been successfully completed as well as the demanding task of stabilizing the existing structure surrounding the damaged reactor to reduce the collapse risk. Since September 2007 a contract for the design and construction of a new safe confinement is in place. It will enclose the site and its radioactive inventory for at least 100 years and provide equipment for future safe dismantling and removal operations. The design work for the arch shaped structure, which will be assembled next to the destroyed unit and slid into place, is nearing completion and should receive all necessary regulatory approvals in the second half of 2010. Site clean-up, preparation and excavation works in the contaminated surroundings of the reactor are virtually complete and work on the foundations for the arch can start later in 2010. A substantial part of the more than 20,000 tons of steel required to build the arch have been ordered.

45. The approach to slide the new safe confinement into place rather than to assemble it on site was taken in an effort to minimize the exposure of the workers to radiation. High health and safety as well as radiation protection standards are a non-negotiable priority in the implementation of all works at the site even though it adds to construction time and cost. The site operator, contractors and regulators so far achieved an excellent safety record.

46. Cost and schedule for the programme can be refined only once the detailed design for the new safe confinement is completed. Currently it is expected that work will conclude by 2013 and that the overall costs of the shelter implementation plan will be well above €1 billion. Donors are aware that the programme is not fully funded and efforts are under way to raise the additional funds required to complete the project.

47. IAEA continues to support Ukraine in planning of the decommissioning of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and subsequent radioactive waste management. Assistance is also provided to improve management structures and human resources management at the plant.

I. Emergency preparedness

48. The Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development continues to focus efforts on improving nuclear emergency management, with recent post-emergency work concentrating on consequence management. In that context, the extremely valuable experience coming from the areas affected by the Chernobyl accident is being extensively used to improve the response preparedness of the member States of the Agency. Stakeholder involvement in consequence management is currently a central theme of this work, and of a workshop planned by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission for October 2010.

J. Environmental security

49. UNEP is implementing two Chernobyl-related projects. One initiative, on the "Radioactive contamination of the territory of Belarus in the Polessie State Radiation-Ecologic Reserve", is part of the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme, within the framework of the UNEP-coordinated Environment and Security Initiative.[5] It focuses on developing a comprehensive database on contamination of the Polessie State Radiation and Ecological Reserve and an estimate of the consequences of radiation redistribution resulting from extreme natural phenomena, such as fires and flooding.

[5] The Environment and Security Initiative was established in 2003 by UNEP, UNDP and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. NATO became an associate member in 2004 through its Public Diplomacy Division. In 2006 the Economic Commission for Europe and the Regional Environment Center for Central and Eastern Europe joined the initiative. The initiative seeks to facilitate a process within which key public decision makers in South Eastern and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus can motivate action to advance and protect both peace and the environment at the same time.

50. Most recently, the Government of Belarus requested UNEP support with the assessment of the environmental benefits and feasibility of biofuel production on contaminated land that is not suitable for agricultural production. A task group is established at UNEP to look into the feasibility of such a technical assistance project.

K. Other initiatives

51. In 2009, the UNDP Czech Trust Fund approved a new project entitled "Good governance at the local level: transfer of knowledge and expertise from the Czech Republic to Chernobyl-affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine". A series of consultations and round-table discussions will be organized during a study visit focusing on the Czech experience in access to information and stakeholders' participation in the decision-making process.

52. In 2008, the UNDP office in Ukraine co-organized with the Council of Europe a workshop on "Learning from the Chernobyl legacy to make European nuclear energy safer: the role of local communities, authorities and central governments in emergency preparedness and management". Representatives of local authorities from 18 countries attended the workshop.

IV. Advocacy, information and public awareness

A. Anniversary commemorations

53. Anniversaries of the Chernobyl accident offer an opportunity to remind the world of the problems that the affected region continues to face, and to promote potential solutions.

54. Statements attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General, released on the twenty-second, twenty-third and twenty-fourth anniversaries of the Chernobyl disaster and widely circulated in English and Russian, addressed the huge impact that the accident had on the region while also expressing confidence that communities affected by the accident have a chance and, increasingly, the means, to lead a normal life. The Secretary-General called upon the international community to continue supporting the recovery of Chernobyl-affected areas.

55. In commemoration of the twenty-second anniversary of Chernobyl, the Office of the United Nations Coordination of International Cooperation on Chernobyl organized the screening of an award-winning documentary from Belarus "The Chernobyl Jungles: Twenty Years without a Human", which depicts wild life in the exclusion zone. Commemoration of the twenty-third anniversary of Chernobyl coincided with the launch of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network, and the twenty-fourth anniversary event featured a presentation by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on progress in the internationally funded effort to build a safe shelter around the destroyed reactor.

56. Public awareness and advocacy events were organized by United Nations country teams and UNDP offices. In 2008, the UNDP Office in Ukraine undertook a press-tour for international media representatives. Other commemorative events in

the three countries included round tables, opening ceremonies of completed community projects, seminars and learning sessions.

57. In April 2009, the Office of the United Nations Coordination of International Cooperation on Chernobyl produced a video "Turning the Page", with up-to-date footage from Chernobyl-affected communities and Chernobyl-related projects implemented by UNDP in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

B. Goodwill Ambassador

58. In February 2007, tennis star Maria Sharapova became a UNDP Goodwill Ambassador. Ms. Sharapova partnered with the Office of United Nations Coordination of International Cooperation on Chernobyl in delivering the message of hope to the Chernobyl-affected communities, particularly to youth.

59. With the financial support from Maria Sharapova Foundation at the level of $100,000, seven youth-focused projects were implemented in rural communities of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Their results include creation of computer and Internet access, promoting ecological awareness and restoring sports facilities. In September 2008, UNDP and the Maria Sharapova Foundation launched another initiative, a scholarship for youth from Chernobyl-affected areas of Belarus. The first recipients of the scholarship started their studies at the two leading universities of Belarus in September 2009.

60. In summer 2010, Ms. Sharapova made a two-day visit to the Chernobyl-affected areas of Belarus where she saw first-hand a number of youth-focused projects financed by the Foundation and implemented by UNDP. She also announced another contribution of $250,000 for a 2-year sports programme as part of recovery efforts in the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

C. Towards the twenty-fifth anniversary

61. In preparation for the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident, the Government of Ukraine proposed the organization of an international conference, "25 years after the Chernobyl disaster: safety for the future", to be held in April 2011. The issues to be discussed include prospects for nuclear energy, cooperation of Governments and communities on nuclear and radiological risks, strategies for radioactive waste management, early warning and disaster response systems and socio-economic development of the Chernobyl-affected areas. The initiative of Ukraine to convene an international conference was co-sponsored by Belarus and the Russian Federation. A number of United Nations agencies agreed to participate in the conference.

62. National events are also planned for the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident in April 2011.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

63. The entities of the United Nations system and Governments agreed to address the lingering consequences of Chernobyl by fostering the affected region's long-term development. To make this aim a reality, Chernobyl-affected communities still require assistance in the form of community-based projects, information on how to live safe and productive lives in the affected territories, and new opportunities and partnerships that would help meeting the local recovery and development needs.

64. United Nations country teams will make a continuous effort to keep the issues of post-Chernobyl recovery high on the inter-agency and international agendas. Coordination and cooperation among the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should be guided by the developmental approach to Chernobyl, the United Nations action plan on Chernobyl to 2016 and the goal of bringing life in the Chernobyl-affected communities back to normal. Subregional cooperation should be continued and synergies obtained from knowledge sharing and best practices.

65. One of the major challenges that lie ahead is the mobilization of more donor resources to support the local initiatives, helping the most vulnerable and ensuring the long-term sustainable development of the Chernobyl-affected territories.

66. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, which will be marked in 2011, will provide an opportunity for the international community not only to remind people of the disaster but also to reinforce donor interest in assistance to communities in the affected region. The international conference that will take place in Ukraine in April 2011 may be the time for partner countries to demonstrate commitment and express interest to new and innovative initiatives for the benefit of local populations.

67. The organization of the conference will require the cooperation of all United Nations organizations that participate in Chernobyl recovery efforts. UNDP, in its role as lead agency for United Nations activities on Chernobyl, is prepared to coordinate conference inputs by all entities of the United Nations system.

Annex 1

Report of Belarus

[Original: Russian]

The State policy for overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster is based on a transition from rehabilitation measures to improving the social and economic potential of, and ensuring sustainable development in, the affected regions.

That policy is programme-based. Belarus is implementing both the 2006-2010 State programme for overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and the programme of joint activities for overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster within the framework of the Belarus-Russian Federation Union State for 2006-2010.

These measures have made it possible to provide social protection for those affected by the disaster, to reduce the risk of negative effects on health for the post-disaster emergency workers and for the affected population, to succeed in protecting the population from exposure to radiation and achieve the social and economic rehabilitation of the contaminated areas.

However, the extensive radioactive contamination and the complexity of radiation protection require that the targeted measures should continue. Large-scale protective action in agriculture in the contaminated zones remains justified.

Belarus has placed great importance on public awareness. Over previous years, some 50 information centres have been established in the affected areas; these have included 19 information and action agencies focusing on radiation protection and basic safety in everyday life. An electronic information database has been established for specialists working in the most seriously affected parts of the country.

Important steps in that connection have been taken in the context of the Belarus-Russian Federation programme of joint activities referred to above. They include the establishment of a Belarus-Russian Federation information centre on Chernobyl-related matters with branches in Moscow and Minsk and the publication of an atlas showing the current and projected (until 2056) effects of the Chernobyl accident in Belarus and the Russian Federation. Work is proceeding to set up a single database and single collection of materials (documentation, photo, video, audio and printed matter, etc.) accumulated in the post-Chernobyl period.

Belarus is continuing to implement international projects and programmes in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Bank and other donors.

International cooperation regarding Chernobyl is currently focusing on comprehensive radiation, environmental, social and economic rehabilitation of the affected zones, and on subsequent transition to sustainable development in those zones. The projects which hold the most promise and are most in demand are those to rehabilitate and bring back into use contaminated land, taking into account the need for radiation safety, the development of agricultural and industrial output and job creation. Still highly topical are activities relating to information, to improving

the radiological and environmental awareness of the inhabitants of affected areas and to encouraging skills connected with safety in everyday life and healthy living.

In preparation for the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, Belarus is planning to hold the following international events:

- a conference focusing on scientific and practical issues (April 2011, Homel);
- a Minsk-Moscow-Kyiv telebridge;
- an exhibition with the theme "Working together to resurrect the affected areas", focusing on the joint efforts of Belarus and the international community to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;
- an Internet-based experts' question-and-answer session and a press tour of the affected areas for representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The future development of international cooperation regarding Chernobyl should centre on refining approaches to assistance, primarily by seeking effective coordination of international projects and programmes with the measures taken by the affected countries.

Cooperation should give priority to establishing a streamlined system to manage the economic and social development of the affected areas. Unless substantial national and international support is provided, there will be no prospect of addressing such issues as sustainable development of the contaminated areas, the development of social infrastructure or increasing incomes and decreasing the future dependence of those living in the affected areas on state social assistance. This will also require systematic and targeted efforts to provide information to support the areas concerned, restore their image, furnish appropriate help to attract investment and actively involve the inhabitants in re-establishing proper living conditions.

Annex 2

Report of the Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]

Minimizing the effects of the Chernobyl disaster centres on refining the medical support given to those living in the affected areas, the post-disaster emergency workers and their children; improving the living standards of those population groups and restoring agriculture and forestry to economic activity. The Russian Federation has devoted considerable attention to these issues.

The Act of the Russian Federation for the social protection of citizens exposed to radiation caused by the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant guarantees compensation for the harm to individuals' health and property resulting from the disaster; compensation for the harm caused by the risks of living and working in the area affected by radioactive contamination above permitted levels; and social assistance.

The extent of social assistance varies according to the status of the individual, in accordance with the Act, and provides for annually indexed monthly payments, for the supply of accommodation to those in need of improved living conditions, for advantageous rates for accommodation and communal services, for extra paid leave, for monthly compensatory payments for the damage to health caused by radiation, for assistance in acquiring food supplies and for other forms of social assistance.

The Russian Federation is implementing the federal special programme entitled "Dealing with the consequences of radiation accidents up to the year 2010", the main aim of which is to largely complete by 2011 the measures for the social and economic rehabilitation of geographical areas and protection of the population from radiation and the return of radiation-contaminated areas to normal use (that is, without radiation-related restrictions) for human habitation and economic activity. The purpose of the programmes is to establish the infrastructure needed for safe habitation in the contaminated areas; to develop and implement measures to safeguard the health of individuals exposed to harmful effects of radiation, including targeted specialized medical assistance; establishing conditions for safe forestry activity in the contaminated areas; developing targeted monitoring systems and system components and forecasting the situation in the contaminated areas; and providing support in the form of information and social/psychological rehabilitation for individuals living in those areas.

The federal budget funds provided between 2002 and 2009 for the programme-related measures carried out in the vicinity of Chernobyl, at the prices for the corresponding years, exceeds 3 billion roubles. During the same period, a further amount of approximately 1 billion roubles was solicited from the budgets of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The funds were used for polyclinics receiving over 1,600 visits per shift; schools with a capacity of 2,300 pupils, some 820 kilometres of gas pipe and over 150 kilometres of water network pipe, over 40,000 square metres of living accommodation, and so on. The establishment of these facilities improved living conditions for over 400,000 inhabitants of the radiation-contaminated areas.

Taking as a basis existing State medical establishments, specialized medical centres have been set up in the federal districts and provided with the necessary

equipment. Their purpose is to provide specialized treatment for those exposed to the harmful effects of radiation.

National Centre for Emergency and Radiation Medicine of the Ministry for Emergency Situations (St. Petersburg);

Russian Scientific Centre for Radiology and Nuclear Medicine (Moscow);

Rostov State Medical University (Rostov-on-Don);

Scientific Medical and Radiological Centre of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences (Obninsk, Kaluga Region).

These efforts have made it possible to provide specialized, technologically advanced, medical treatment each year to over 2,000 people exposed to the harmful effects of radiation as a result of the Chernobyl disaster.

The goals set in the programme for achievement by 2011 seem on course to be achieved. However, the long-term character and the scale of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster make it impossible to speak of complete resolution of all the socially significant problematic issues in the context of the 2010 programme. This is the result of a number of factors:

- the presence of elevated radiation risks and negative effects on the health of the population;
- contamination with long-lived caesium and strontium radionuclides with half-lives of approximately 30 years, which damages the radiation hygiene situation (contamination of agricultural and forestry products with higher-than-permitted levels of radionuclides);
- the scale and variety of radioactive contamination of the territory.

Under the federal special programme entitled "Dealing with the consequences of radiation accidents for the period up to 2015" of the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations, the following objectives have been set:

Provision by 2015 of the conditions necessary for safe everyday habitation living and economic activities in territories exposed to radiation as a result of radiation accidents and disasters;

Completion of a series of federal projects to overcome the consequences of radiation accidents and the establishment of the methodological, technical and logistical basis for transferring to the regional level future efforts to address the problems of territories with radioactive contamination.

The consequences of Chernobyl are not limited to one State. The Russian Federation is working actively with other countries and international organizations on matters related to overcoming the consequences of that disaster.

Currently, the closest cooperation is with the Republic of Belarus, in the context of the Programme of joint activities for overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster within the framework of the Union State for 2006-2010. The goal of the Union Programme is to establish and enhance coordinated elements and mechanisms of joint Belarus-Russian Federation efforts to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. Its objectives are to enhance the components of the system for providing targeted specialized medical assistance to

Russian and Belarusian nationals who were affected by the Chernobyl disaster; establishing conditions to ensure the safe use of agricultural and forest lands in both countries exposed to radioactive contamination as a result of the accident; and instilling an adequate understanding on the part of the population of the Union State concerning the consequences of the accident by means of a general information policy.

Financing of the activities carried out in the Russian Federation between 2006 and 2009 amounted to over 500 million rubles. As part of the Union Programme, technologically advanced assistance is provided annually to more than 2,000 Russian and Belarusian nationals exposed to radiation as a result of the Chernobyl disaster, by using the health-care facilities which have been established and by exploiting new medical technologies. A unified Chernobyl registry serves as the basis for managing targeted medical assistance and organizing large-scale radiation and epidemiological studies. In 2009, a project to create an atlas of current and forecast effects of the Chernobyl accident on affected parts of the Russian Federation and Belarus was completed.

To ensure effective implementation of a common information policy regarding measures to address the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, a Belarus-Russian Federation information centre has been set up, with branches in Moscow and Minsk.

Cooperation between the Russian Federation and Ukraine to resolve Chernobyl-related problems has been developing and expanding in an encouraging way.

The Russian Federation is an active participant in the work of the Chernobyl Forum. The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation manages Russian involvement in projects with UNDP, IAEA, WHO and UNICEF to overcome the negative consequences of the disaster.

Such projects include IAEA regional project RER 3/004, Radiological Support for the Rehabilitation of the Areas Affected by the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident, and UNDP, WHO and UNICEF projects carried out within the framework of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN).

In 2009 and 2010, training seminars involving international WHO and IAEA experts were held for medical workers in the cities of Uzlovaya in the Tula region and Volkhova in the Oryol region. In 2009, there was a public information campaign on safety in daily living for people living in areas with radioactive contamination in Bryansk, Oryol, Tula and Kaluga regions, as part of a UNDP (ICRIN) project.

General Assembly resolution 62/9 of 20 November 2007 on strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster confirms the pressing need to address these issues. The Russian Federation supports and participates in the United Nations action plan for Chernobyl recovery up to 2010 prepared in accordance with this resolution.

Given the long-term nature of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and the experience already gained in managing the consequences of radiation accidents, the following is proposed:

To recommend to the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine that they continue addressing the issues of minimizing the

consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant using special programmes and with assistance from intergovernmental and national special programmes;

To support the efforts of the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to provide targeted specialized medical assistance to citizens exposed to radiation due to the disaster and to implement psychological and social adaptation measures for those living in areas of radioactive contamination;

To continue with broad information and education on matters of safe daily living in areas of radioactive contamination for the public as a whole and for specific groups;

To consolidate the efforts of the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine and international organizations to ensure sustainable socio-economic development of radioactively contaminated territories from the perspective of rehabilitating agriculture and forestry;

To set up, for the purpose of transmitting the experience of foreign specialists, international training centres in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine specializing in radiation protection and public information, rehabilitation of radioactively contaminated territories, decision-making in conditions of large-scale radioactive contamination and responding to terrorist acts involving radiation;

To pool the efforts of Belarus, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and international organizations to prepare and hold commemorative activities on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the events at Chernobyl.

Annex 3

Report of Ukraine

[Original: Russian]

Pursuant to the Ukrainian Act on the national programme to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster for 2006-2010, the immediate tasks facing the Ukrainian Government in this respect are the integrated medical and socio-psychological rehabilitation of the affected population, their social protection and the establishment of safe living conditions in areas contaminated by radiation. The socio-economic regeneration of population centres and areas exposed to radioactive contamination is a priority of national policy.

In keeping with the aims and goals of the national programme for 2006-2010 and the Ukrainian Act on the status and social protection of citizens who are Chernobyl disaster victims, victims receive annual medical check-ups and treatment. Specialized centres and treatment establishments, including centres for children, have been set up for the screening, treatment and socio-psychological rehabilitation of victims.

With a view to providing more effective medical and social care, a State register of Chernobyl disaster victims has been created. As at 1 January 2010, the register included 2,339,532 persons.

In 2009, 2,167,088 Chernobyl disaster victims were being kept under medical observation by health institutions, including 378,696 children. Of these persons, 1,877,296 were found to be ill and constantly in need of medical assistance. To provide medical assistance to the victims, a network has been established of 37 national and regional medical institutions, as well as 300 local medical institutions.

A top national priority to overcome the consequences of the disaster is international cooperation on health-care issues, social and radiation protection, and making use of the global experience available.

For many years the Government of Ukraine has been cooperating with the Chernobyl Recovery and Development Programme, which is implemented in Ukraine by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The purpose of the Programme is to reduce the long-term socio-economic and ecological impact of the disaster, to create favourable living conditions for residents of the contaminated areas, and to increase their social activism and responsibility for their lives.

An effective measure of socio-psychological support to the affected population is raising awareness about the environmental situation and safe residence in the contaminated areas. Such work is being carried out in centres, established with United Nations support, for socio-psychological rehabilitation and for providing information to the public on how to deal with the consequences of the disaster. Current lines of action for the centres include a social mobilization and community development programme, which is being implemented within the framework of the Chernobyl Recovery and Development Programme.

In 2009, with the participation of United Nations agencies (WHO, IAEA, UNDP and UNICEF), the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN) project was launched. Its coordinator is the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergency Situations. The purpose of the project is to distribute reliable

information among the affected population on safe residence and a healthy lifestyle in the areas contaminated by radiation. Under the project, events were held to help local communities "return to normal life".

At the end of 2009, work commenced in cooperation with UNICEF on a new project, entitled "Improving the health of children living in territories affected by Chernobyl". The project aims to train medical workers, to provide basic medical equipment and to establish centres where families with children will have improved access to medical, social and information services.

The release of radioactive substances following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant resulted in the radioactive contamination of 2,293 settlements and towns in Ukraine.

According to the Ukrainian legislation in force, the area of radioactive contamination is almost 54,000 square kilometres. Around 2,254 million people, including 497,000 children, live there.

Over the past three years, the following activities have been conducted under the Ukrainian Act on the national programme to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster:

- Comprehensive work to determine the environmental status of contaminated areas, including the contamination density of cesium-137 and strontium-90;
- Dosimetry certification of settlements in 12 regions of Ukraine;
- Monitoring the level of radioactive contamination of food, forest products and medicinal plants, and further equipping and supporting radiological laboratories. These operations are carried out by radiation monitoring units, whose network includes 123 laboratories and centres working in the contaminated areas;
- Activities related to the radiological rehabilitation of the areas, including measures designed to improve living conditions and to restart agricultural production there; and,
- Measures to ensure that agricultural production is within acceptable contamination levels.

The radiation situation in forests remains complicated. Scientific research shows that there is an accumulation of radionuclides in trees, berries, herbal medicine, mushrooms and game. A number of firefighting activities are taking place in the forests in order to enhance their health protection functions and to prevent secondary radioactive contamination of the surrounding areas. Forest products are subject to radiation monitoring.

The main challenge today is to move away from measures to prevent the consumption of contaminated products and towards the recovery and comprehensive rehabilitation of contaminated areas.

The most promising avenues of further cooperation with the United Nations are:

- The provision of practical and technical assistance by equipping specialized medical facilities with up-to-date equipment for treatment and diagnosis, and with medical supplies, to secure an appropriate level of medical assistance for

victims and persons requiring complicated heart or brain surgery, organ transplants or treatment for cancerous diseases;

- Assistance to interregional centres for the socio-psychological rehabilitation of the population and supplying the latter with information on how to cope with the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster; these centres not only carry out psychosocial and rehabilitation work among the population and provide outreach activities, but also help to develop the capacities of communities living in contaminated areas and to introduce socio-economic development projects;

- Continued research on thyroid cancer, especially among those who were under the age of 18 at the time of the accident, and continued iodine deficiency treatment, especially in children;

- Wider cooperation with the United Nations with respect to medical, environmental, youth and socio-economic questions (in keeping with the recommendations of the Chernobyl Forum);

- Holding an international conference in April 2011, in conjunction with Belarus and the Russian Federation, entitled "Twenty-five years after the Chernobyl Accident. Safety for the Future"; and

- Holding an international Internet conference in conjunction with experts from Belarus and the Russian Federation.

The Government of Ukraine accords special attention to the problems of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. In 2008-2010, a significant amount of work was done to decommission the plant and to convert the shelter facility into an environmentally safe system. Provisions have been made to ensure the safety of unit Nos. 1, 2 and 3, spent fuel storage facility No. 1, the shelter facility, to ensure the physical protection of nuclear material on the industrial site of the nuclear power plant, and to comply with IAEA requirements for its storage.

Over the period 2008-2010, international technical assistance enabled significant progress to be made in the construction of a facility for reprocessing liquid radioactive waste, a spent fuel storage facility (No. 2) and an industrial complex for solid radioactive waste, as well as in the Shelter Implementation Plan.

However, Ukraine is concerned by the radioactive waste on the site of the Chernobyl plant, whose grounds have been affected by significant radioactive contamination. A large amount of the radioactive waste was generated during the clean-up of the accident and while the units were in operation. The nuclear power plant today does not have the production or financial capacities to deal with such significant amounts of waste. The lack of an integrated waste management system could have a negative impact on the implementation of international projects at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, primarily the Shelter Implementation Plan. Donors to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund have expressed this concern on many occasions.

A successful solution to the problems of decommissioning the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and converting the shelter will largely depend on the timely completion of facility infrastructure. This includes the construction of the spent fuel storage facility, the liquid radioactive waste reprocessing facility and the industrial complex for solid radioactive waste. Today these facilities are at different stages of construction on the nuclear power plant site. Their untimely completion is causing

delays in the construction of the new protective cover over the shelter and in the decommissioning of the nuclear power plant.

In view of the above situation, the review of the amount of work entailed and the estimated costs of the Shelter Implementation Plan, additional international financial assistance will be required to implement the Chernobyl projects in accordance with the Ottawa Memorandum of Understanding. Ukraine believes that the Governments of other countries should join the ranks of donor countries in providing financial support for the implementation of the Chernobyl projects, since the problems which arose in connection with the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant have enormous safety implications not only for Ukraine. Completing the projects on the site of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant corresponds to the international approach adopted in support of Ukraine's decision to close the plant, as well as international agreements for decommissioning the plant and converting the shelter facility into an environmentally safe system.